



FOREVER CHANGE MY UNDERSTANDING

Part 4: Romans 8:28

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And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- *Romans 8:28*

According to this verse's context, I am:

- Free** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. - Romans 8:1-2
- Aligned** Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. - Romans 8:5-6
- Controlled** Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are not controlled by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. - Romans 8:9
- Led** For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. - Romans 8:13-14
- Confident** For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear.... - Romans 8:15a
- Adopted** ...but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." - Romans 8:15b
- Secure** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. - Romans 8:16
- Identified** Now, if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. - Romans 8:17a
- Connected** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. - Romans 8:26

Purposed And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. – Romans 8:28

- a. This verse can be a “band-aid on a bullet hole” when used out of context
- b. This verse is for a specific audience
- c. This verse is best applied with a long view of life
- d. This verse is the bedrock promise of the human/Christian experience

Directed And those he predestined, he also called, those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. – Romans 8:30

Empowered What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? – Romans 8:31

Humbled He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? – Romans 8:32

Saturated Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble, or hardship or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? – Romans 8:35

Convinced No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:37-39

Next Steps

Our identity in Christ is a one of the greatest gifts God has given. Next weekend we start our Christmas series focused on regifting everything we’ve received through the person of Jesus. To help you share that with others, we’ll have Christmas Eve invitations available next week. This week, consider and pray about who you could invite to Christmas Eve, then pick up invitations next week.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What did you do to celebrate Thanksgiving?
- 2) Who are you? Introduce yourself by your first, middle and last name. Then, include two or three aspects of your life that you believe define you.
- 3) Have you ever experienced a verse being used out of context? What happened?
- 4) Which of the identity pieces in Romans 8 is the most precious to you? Which is the hardest for you to accept? Why?
- 5) What does Romans 8:28 reveal about the character of God?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?